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concl

database 424 while the content node 406 includes a content controller 408 and a content store 412.

~~Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 29, with the following rewritten paragraph:~~

The health check 426 can be either a hardware or software application which provides operational characteristics of an associated content exchange 116. In an embodiment, the health check 426 provides a single indication of content exchange 116 status. The single indication may be a normalized value between zero and one indicating a combination of content exchange characteristics including, for example, a CPU load, a CPU temperature, a number of concurrent connections, and a number of requests a content exchange is facilitating. In an alternate embodiment, the health check 426 could monitor characteristics of a content exchange 116 while running on another content exchange 116, origin server 108 or location.

A2

~~Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:~~

The aforementioned heuristics can be determined using the health check 330, 426 associated with a particular content exchange 116 or origin server 108. In an embodiment, health check 330, 426 are software applications running on a content exchange 116 and origin server 108 respectively. When queried by the viewer object proxy 504, the health check 330, 426 may provide a CPU load, a CPU temperature, a number of concurrent connections, and a number of requests the content exchange 116 or origin server 108 is currently servicing. In some embodiments, viewer object proxy 504 queries the content object exchange 116 via HTTP to retrieve server health check heuristics. It should be noted, however, that one skilled in the art would recognize many mechanisms for accessing server health heuristics including, but not limited to, FTP, NNTP, RTP, RTSP, SHOUT, SMTP, or connecting to the node through a designated port.

A3

~~Please replace~~ the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 33, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A4
In other embodiments, a request for status by the viewer object proxy 504 to the health check 330, 426 results in a single status indicia being returned. The single status indicia is between one and zero with one indicating poor characteristics and zero indicating good characteristics. Good and poor characteristics are determined based on the ability or capability for a content exchange 116 or other transfer node to act as a content object cache. Thus, in an embodiment, an indicia of 0.9 indicates an inability to maintain a content object local to a content exchange 116 for an extended time. Alternatively, an indicia of 0.2 indicates an ability to maintain a content object for an extended time.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

H.E.
Please replace Figure 4A of the current application with the replacement Figure 4A attached hereto.

REMARKS

The changes made to the specification and the replacement Figure 4A correct a situation where the reference designator "428" was used twice. To eliminate the problem, reference designator "428" on Fig. 4A is renamed to "426". As this typographical error would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, no new matter is added by these amendments.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the drawing, specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made." A formal Fig. 4A that incorporates the change is included for entry if the Examiner chooses to accept the change.